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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Kazakh SSR)

DATE:

INFO.

SUBJECT 1. Industries in the Lake Balkhash Area
 2. Mining of Uranium

DIST. 25 June 1947

ORIGIN

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE

1. Large metal and chemical combines have been constructed in the region of Lake Balkhash on the lower reaches of the Ayaguz River (eastern tip of Lake Balkhash).
2. The chemical combine consists of a series of factories working on local resources such as sulphur and salts. During the war, it was used principally for the production of explosives.
3. The metal combines produce a variety of non-ferrous metals, including copper. The mines are situated on the Ayaguz River and at a series of points in the Karatal Valley (south side of Lake Balkhash).
4. During the war, a group of armament factories was added to the metal combine, principally factories evacuated with their personnel from European Russia. Part of the Kiev Arsenal, for example, was moved to Balkhash in October 1941. Similarly, the Voronezh Cartridge Factory (No. 28?) and part of Kalinin Shell Factory No. 4 from Leningrad were moved to the area. By the summer of 1945, over 7,000 workers were employed in the Ayaguz weapon combine. The three combines employed a total of over 20,000 workmen.
5. From the summer of 1945, the exploitation of new polymetallic deposits was begun in the Karatal and Urta-Khul (sic) mines. In both the Ayaguz and Karatal mines, uranium ore was being mined which, after processing in the Balkhash polymetallic combine, was sent to the Kuznetsk Basin. During the summer of 1945, numerous expeditions were prospecting in the regions south of Lake Balkhash.

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